

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

/066 W

-----077483 110647Z /23

R 110033Z APR 78

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0377

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0965

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR CH TW US

SUBJ: GUANGMING DAILY ARTICLE STRESSES CHOU EN-LAI'S SUPPORT
FOR THE PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN

REF: PEKING 536

1. SUMMARY: AN APRIL 10 GUANGMING DAILY ARTICLE BY "TAIWAN COMPATRIOT" HSU MENG-SHAN RECALLS CHOU EN-LAI'S SUPPORT FOR THE PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN. HSU ALSO STATES THAT CHOU, ACTING IN COMPLIANCE WITH A CHAIRMAN MAO DIRECTIVE, SAID THAT THE HOPE FOR THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN LIES WITH THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE. MODERATE IN TONE, THE ARTICLE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY CALL FOR ACTIVE MILITARY PREPARATIONS NOR REITERATE THE NEED FOR FORCIBLY LIBERATE THE ISLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. THE APRIL 10 ISSUES OF GUANGMING DAILY CARRIES AND

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ARTICLE ENTITLED "PREMIER CHOU'S CONCERN FOR THE CAUSE OF LIBERATING THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE" BY A TAIWANESE UNITED FRONT FIGURE NAMED HSU MENG-SHAN. HSU REVIEWS PREMIER CHOU'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE EVOLUTION OF PRC POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND INTIMATES THAT THE PRC STILL PREFERS THE OPTION OF LIBERATING TAIWAN BY PEACEFUL MEANS. HE REMINDS US THAT IN AUGUST 1954, PREMIER

CHOU TOLD AN ENLARGED MEETING OF THE CHINESE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONGRESS (CPPCC) THAT WHILE "THERE ARE TWO METHODS FOR LIBERATING TAIWAN, UNDER POSITIVE CONDITIONS, CHINA WANTS TO STRIVE FOR THE PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN." HSU DECLARES THAT CHOU'S STATEMENT RECEIVED THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. "PREMIER CHOU EXERTED STRENUOUS EFFORTS FOR THE PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN," HE ADDS.

3. HSU ALSO PLACES GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE TAIWANESE IN LIBERATING THE ISLAND THAN WE CAN RECALL HAVING SEEN RECENTLY. HSU STATES THAT CHOU, IN COMPLIANCE WITH AN UNSPECIFIED DIRECTIVE OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S, "SAID THAT HOPE FOR THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN LIES WITH THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE." A SIMILAR FORMULA WAS PRESENTED IN A FEBRUARY 27 ARTICLE BY LI CH'UN-CHING, A TAIWAN DELEGATE TO THE CPPCC. HOWEVER, LI ATTRIBUTED THE CONCEPT TO A THEN "RECENT" SPEECH BY YEH CHIEN-YING. IN CONTRAST HSU HAS US BELIEVE THAT CHAIRMAN MAO HIMSELF DIRECTED THAT THE TASK OF TAIWAN'S LIBERATION SHOULD LIE PRIMARILY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLAND.

4. THE ARTICLE REPEATS THE WELL-KNOWN PRC POSITION THAT THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS TO THE TAIWAN PROBLEMS: THE INTERNAL (I.E., THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN) AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DIPLOMATIC (THE US ROLE IN OCCUPYING THE ISLAND). IT IS ONLY THE LATTER QUESTION THAT IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION WITH THE US, THE ARTICLE REMINDS ITS READERS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE ARTICLE WAS NEITHER GIVEN AN AUTHORITATIVE BYLINE NOR CARRIED BY PEOPLE'S DAILY, WE ARE STRUCK BY ITS MODERATE TONE. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY REITERATE THAT FORCE MAY BE NECESSARY TO LIBERATE THE ISLAND. INSTEAD, THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO ARGUE FOR A GRADUALIST APPROACH, A PEACEFUL INCORPORATION OF THE ISLAND. WE DO NOT BLIEVE IT REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN THE BASIC PRC POSITION BUT SEE IT AS FITTING INTO THE RENEWED EMPHASIS ON UNITED FRONT WORK: PERSISTENT AND PEACEFUL UNITED FRONT ACTIVITIES WILL LEAD TO PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN GIVEN THE RIGHT CONDITIONS. WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING00965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780155-0299
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780470/aaaachlb.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: ac98f0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PEKING 536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3009181
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUANGMING DAILY ARTICLE STRESSES CHOU EN-LAI'S SUPPORT FOR THE PEACEFUL LIBERATION OF TAIWAN
TAGS: PEPR, CH, TW, US, (CHOU EN LAI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac98f0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014